Broadcast of local advertising and non-political news

2807. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to allow broadcast of local advertising and non-political news in community radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The proposed policy is before a Group of Ministers.

Repeal of Prasar Bharati Act

2808. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to repeal the Prasar Bharati Act and restore the earlier status of Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compounding losses by Prasar Bharati

2809. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the directions from the Supreme Court, the Centre is close to finalising a solution to public broadcaster Prasar Bharati's compounding losses, now touching Rs. 5500 crore;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers consiting of Home; Finance and External Affairs and other key departments has been set up to work out a plan to cut corporation out of red;

(c) whether formation of this Group was announced in September, 2005; and